

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 15, 2005, pending claims 1-17 were considered and rejected. Pending claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 stand objected to because of certain informalities present therein. Pending claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,728 to Townsend et al. (“Townsend”). Pending claims 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Townsend.

Correction of Informalities in Claims

Pending claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 stand objected to as containing certain informalities. Applicants amend claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 by replacing “grooves” with “trough.” Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and request indication that claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 are allowable.

Arguments Supporting The Withdrawal Of §102 Rejection:

Pending claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-17 stand rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Townsend. Applicants traverse the rejections. Applicants submit that Townsend does not disclose each and every limitation of Applicants’ independent claims 1, 9, and 17. In particular, Townsend does not disclose a spiral groove cut into the exterior surface or interior surface of the outer wall opposite the splines so as to remove material sufficient to engage at least one of said troughs formed at said first depth thereby forming a plurality of apertures having a closed periphery and extending longitudinally along said outer wall.

The oil escape holes of Townsend are formed by cutting a circumferential groove transverse to the longitudinal splines (see column 2, lines 47-50), not a spiral groove as required in the claims 1, 9, and 17. Townsend restricts the placement of oil escape apertures to within the circumferential groove only, which restricts distribution of the oil escape apertures (see paragraph [0007] of Applicants' application). The spiral grooves of the present application, on the other hand, allow for placement of the oil escape apertures longitudinally along the outer wall. This, therefore, results in the formation of oil escape apertures distributed longitudinally along the outer wall. This improves the oil escape to lubricate the elements contained within the housing (see paragraph [0010] of Applicants' application). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9 and 17 and respectfully request indication that such claims are allowable.

As claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-16 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 9 and add additional limitations thereto, the arguments above apply equally thereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-16 and request indication that such claims are allowable.

Pending claims 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Townsend. As previously argued, Townsend fails to disclose a spiral groove cut into the exterior surface or interior surface of the outer wall opposite the splines so as to remove material sufficient to engage at least one of said troughs formed at said first depth thereby forming a plurality of apertures having a closed periphery and extending longitudinally along said outer wall. Accordingly and as claims 3 and 11 depend indirectly from claims 1 and 9, the argument above applies equally hereto. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 11 and request indication that such claims are allowable.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully requests the allowance thereof.

Respectfully,

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